(c) what steps Government are planning so that Indian Shipping Companies can also participate in such global bids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Pre-qualification Bid documents floated by Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) for transportation of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) provide that the bidder will associate an Indian Shipping Company in ownership and operatorship of the LNG tankers and offer training programme to the Indian Personnel.

ONGC plan to get production of crude from North Gujarat

1625. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC had planned to get the production of crude from North Gujarat passes through Navagam at the end of Ninth Plan (1999-2000) 6.10 MMTPA;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for this purpose the Desalter Plant equipment called Trains were installed; and

(c) whether it is a fact that ONGC incurred an avoidable expenditure of Rs. 9.55 crore for North Gujarat oil fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Desalter plant having three trains, has been set up at Nawagam (Gujarat) for improving the quality of crude oil produced from North Gujarat oilfields. The third train installed at a cost of Rs. 9.55 crore serves as a stand by to meet any eventuality and also periodic shut downs at the plant, for maintaining the quality of crude.

Private sector oil companies participation in retail marketing

1626. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in near future private sector oil companies are starting retail marketing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if the restrictions faced by existing PSUs such as marketing in hilly region and rural areas and dealers are not appointed on commercial considerations etc. will be applicable to private players also;

(d) if not, how the PSUs will face competition from private players in the absence of level playing field; and

(e) what action Government propose to take in this regard to ensure level playing field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Private sector is marketing permitted decontrolled products and those products which are allowed under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS). The public sector oil companies have undertaken number of steps to meet the competition from private oil company and to secure their marketing interest in the retail sector such as:—

(i) Upgrading facilities of retail outlets.

(ii) Improve customer service at retail outlets/LPG distributorship etc.

(iii) Value addition at retail outlet by entering into strategic tie ups.

LPG agencies and petrol pumps in Meghalaya

1627. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations in Meghalaya where LPG dealership and petrol pumps have been allotted during the last five years;

(b) the time by which more LPG dealership and petrol pumps in the State are likely to be set up; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) During the last 5 years (1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99) oil companies have allotted 5 retail outlet dealerships and 2 LPG distributorships in Meghalaya.

(b) and (c) In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plans 2 retail outlet dealerships and 8 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1996—98 for Meghalaya.